

# **#AfghanEvac Day**

***Presented by Councilmember Marni Von Wilpert***

***March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021***

**WHEREAS,** #AfghanEvac's roots began in 2017 at a press conference hosted by the San Diego Chapter of the Truman National Security Project outside of San Diego City Hall; and

**WHEREAS,** On August 14, 2021, San Diego County resident Abdul "Lucky" Manan was trapped atop a mountain in Urgan, Afghanistan, surrounded by the Taliban and low on ammunition, and decided to contact San Diego resident Shawn VanDiver for assistance; and

**WHEREAS,** Shawn VanDiver mobilized his unique network of friends and colleagues to help Lucky's family escape Afghanistan; and

**WHEREAS,** The organization quickly evolved into a vast global network working in concert to help more than 130,000 Afghans in need of support but in danger of being left behind; and

**WHEREAS,** The #AfghanEvac Operations Center was established first in City Council District 6 and then in Council District 3, connecting volunteer and non-profit groups across the humanitarian aid and national security ecosystems to collaborate in service of keeping our promise to our Afghan allies; and

**WHEREAS,** Over the past 6 months the #AfghanEvac coalition has grown to be more than 170 organizations and thousands of volunteers who, working together, have saved thousands of lives; and

**WHEREAS,** More than 2,000 new San Diego residents have arrived from Afghanistan in recent months; and

**WHEREAS,** #AfghanEvac coalition members from San Diego have played an outsized role in the global effort to honor the promise made by our nation to our wartime allies in Afghanistan; and

**WHEREAS,** March 1<sup>st</sup> marks 6 months since the withdrawal of the last remaining U.S. military forces; and

**WHEREAS,** The #AfghanEvac coalition will continue to work to save our Afghan allies left behind; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT PROCLAIMED,** by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby proclaim March 1, 2021 to be "**#AfghanEvac Day**" in the City of San Diego.